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Submission: I oppose the proposals to merge the City of Sydney with other councils for several reasons. Firstly, as someone with broad senior corporate experience, it is evident that mergers generally fail and what results is a loss of focus on stakeholder needs, escalation of costs, excessive politicisation and general dysfunctionality, despite the input from highly paid change management consultants.

Secondly, as a resident and businessperson, CoS is a high performing Council, closely aligned with the aspirations of residents and businesses, demonstrating superior planning skills, a consultative approach, the ability to manage major development projects like Green Square and commendable financial management which keeps rates low. I am amazed that the criteria for the Fit for the Future process do not reward the Councils with no debt. This is commercially naive.

Thirdly, CoS Council performs very well as it is. This is a world city and having lived in another world city in Europe for 5 years, we are being well served. We have good independent governance, a long term vision which includes environmental sustainability, commercial and residential development, transport, cultural initiatives and community facilities. They have proved that they can deliver against the vision and have remained untainted by the corruption demonstrated by both major political parties.

We have in Sydney a great world-class city, deemed both desirable and livable. It has scale and capacity to outperform and deliver for the future. Don't meddle with it because the current amalgamation proposals will deliver no benefits to the residents and ratepayers.